

NOTE XVIII.

ON MACRONOTA APICALIS, G. & P.

BY

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Among the *Macronota*'s described and figured in Gory and Percheron's »*Monographie des Cétoines* (1833)» there is a small species from West-Africa, viz.: *Macronota apicalis* G. & P., which, though with some doubt, was placed by the authors in the genus *Macronota*, composed of Asiatic species only.

Our advanced knowledge of the distribution of Cetoniid genera induces us to consider the occurrence in West-Africa of a species, belonging to an exclusive Asiatic genus, a fact of much doubt. Moreover the figure of *M. apicalis* is not at all representing the peculiar facies of a *Macronota*, but looks much more like a *Glycyphana* with a slightly lobed prothorax.

Burmeister, in his »*Handbuch der Entomologie* III (1842)» mentions this species, which was not known to him, no less than three times. Firstly he supposes (p. 330), that *M. apicalis* G. & P. does not belong to the genus *Macronota*, but probably ought to be ranged in the genus *Glycyphana*. On p. 351, in an annotation at the end of the description of *Glycyphana impar* G. & P., he says: »I suppose, *Macronota apicalis* G. & P. belongs hereto." Finally having established the genus *Discopeltis* for *D. tricolor* Burm.¹⁾, he writes (p. 600): »the only species I

1) Burmeister described *Discopeltis tricolor* from a specimen in Mr. Sommer's collection, which was obtained afterwards by Dr. Baden, and has passed now in my possession.

have examined, is a native of Guinea, and therefore I suppose that *Macronota apicalis* G. & P., which I have placed formerly in the genus *Glycyphana* as I did not yet know *Discopeltis tricolor*, must take its true place in this genus."

In the Munich Catalogue these quotations of Burmeister are omitted.

Schaum discusses the views of Burmeister in his »Observations critiques sur la famille des Lamellicornis Méliophiles (Ann. Soc. Ent. de France. 1844. 2^e Sér. t. II)" and considers the characters, which distinguish *M. apicalis* from the genus *Macronota*, too trifling as to justify a separation.

The type specimen of *M. apicalis*, which belonged to the collection of Count Dejean, is now in possession of Mr. J. Thomson, who has published in his »Typi Cetoniidarum (1878) p. 36" a list of the types of Gory & Percheron preserved in his collection, and among them he enumerates a *Gametis apicalis*. The position assigned to this insect by Thomson, without any further explanation, neither pleads in favor of his accurate observation, nor for the homogeneity of his genus *Gametis*.

I have failed to find any further annotations about this interesting species, which seems to be a great rarity, for although I have visited the greater part of the more important Musea and private collections in Europe, I never saw a specimen of it. Great was therefore my delight, as I observed, on opening a drawer with Cetoniidae of Dr. Baden's collection, which I recently purchased, an insect which directly called to mind the figure of *M. apicalis* G. & P. After a careful examination with the description and figure, little doubt remained as for its identity, the only appreciable difference being the red border of the thorax, which does not extend along the front- and basal-margin in my specimen. (Here I must observe that the description and figure of G. & P. are somewhat in contradiction, the legs being yellow on the plate, at least in

my copy, whilst they ought to be black according to the description). At the same time it became evident, that Burmeister, at last, very correctly had referred this species to his genus *Discopeltis*.

D. apicalis G. & P. is allied to *D. lateralis* Gerst. from Zanzibar, and to the more recently described *D. aberrans* Jans. from Angola, and *D. capucina* Gerst. from the Cameroons, the two latter species I know however from description only.

The description of Gory & Percheron being very superficial and incomplete, I think it might be useful to give a detailed description of my specimen.

Discopeltis apicalis G. & P.

Macronota apicalis G. & P. Monographie des Cétoines.
p. 327. t. 64. f. 7.

? *Glycyphana apicalis* Burm. Handbuch der Entomologie.
III. p. 330 & 351.

? *Discopeltis apicalis* Burm. Handbuch der Entomologie.
III. p. 600.

Macronota apicalis Schaum. Ann. Soc. Ent. de France. 2^e
Sér. t. II (1844). p. 369.

Gametis apicalis Thoms. Typi Cetonidarum. p. 36.

♀. Head black, slightly shining, with a coarse and confluent punctuation at the sides, the clypeus finely punctured, a faint longitudinal ridge along the centre; clypeus depressed at the sides, the apex rounded and emarginate in the middle. Antennae entirely black.

Prothorax dull black, broadly margined along the sides with dull red; convex, frontmargin slightly prominent, the base produced into an obtuse point over the scutellum, sides broadly rounded, somewhat prominent in the middle, obsoletely punctured near the anterior angles.

Scutellum dull black, the top strongly produced and acute.

Elytra dull rusty red, with a lunated dull black patch, common to both, just before the tip and extending along

the suture downwards to the apex; depressed, parallel-sided, each with a faint trace of two costae, united at the apical callosity, and a few longitudinal striae; sutural margins smooth at the end. Epimera red, shining, deeply and confluent punctured.

Pygidium dull black, with a few scattered punctures.

Undersurface shining black, sides of the prosternum margined with red; breast coarsely strigose at the sides, each abdominal segment with a transverse row of large distant punctures at the basal margin and an other row about the middle, the last segment finely punctured; mesosternal-process short and broad, apex straight; sides of the breast with sparse golden pubescence. Legs shining black, deeply punctured, all the femora and the tibiae of the middle- and hindlegs sparingly fringed with golden hairs; the anterior tibiae coarsely strigose above, with two distinct lateral teeth before the terminal edge, the other tibiae with a strong tooth about the middle.

This specimen has been captured by the Missionary Werner at Abetefi (Ashantee).